

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBABAN 02530 250850Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----045289 250853Z /20

O 250800Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5277

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 2530

NODIS

GABORONE FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH UK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING OF RHODESIAN PRINCIPALS IN SWAZILAND

REF: STATE 187090

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL QUERIES, WE BELIEVE GOS WOULD ACCEPT, AND POSSIBLY WELCOME, THE IDEA OF HELPING ARRANGE SECRET MEETING OF 20-30 INDIVIDUALS FOR UN-PUBLICIZED MEETING ON RHODESIA IN THE "VERY NEAR FUTURE".

2. OUR CONFIDENCE IN SO STATING IS BASED ON FACT THAT POWER STRUCTURE IN SWAZILAND IS SUCH THAT IF KING SOBHUZA APPROVES, THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE. THE GOS IS ALSO ABLE, AT KING'S DIRECTION, TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY BUT ONLY WITHIN LIMITS, I.E., THIS IS A SMALL COUNTRY WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE AND FAMILY TIES ARE CLOSE.

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3. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ROYAL LODGE OR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED FACILITY SUITABLE FOR PROPOSED MEETING. THIS COULD POSE A PROBLEM CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY. THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PRIVATE LODGES/HOTELS WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE AND ARE WITHIN AN HOUR'S DRIVE OF COUNTRY'S MAIN AIR-PORT (MATSAPHA) NEAR MANZINI. THEY ARE:

(A) FORESTERS ARMS HOTEL AND (B) MEIKLES MOUNT COUNTRY RESORT. BOTH ARE NEAR MHLAMBANYATI, 17 MILES SOUTHWEST OF MBABANE. INCIDENTALLY, ONLY MATSAPHA AIRPORT HAS PAVED AIRSTRIP; ALL OTHER 15 OR SO AIRSTRIPS ARE GRASS AND UNATTENDED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT NO POINT IN THE COUNTRY IS MORE THAN 1-1/2 HOURS (90 MINUTES) DRIVE FROM MATSAPHA.

4. AS NOTED PARA 3 REFTTEL, MANY OTHER QUESTIONS REMAIN, AND WE WOULD STRESS AT THIS STAGE THAT UK/US OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE TO OVERSEE AND MANAGE, EVEN IN DETAIL, THE ARRANGEMENT FOR SUCH A GATHERING, GIVEN THE SWAZI PROPENSITY FOR INEFFICIENCY AND LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS.  
NORLAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PLANNING MEETINGS, SECRET MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, CAT-B  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014